

OUTGOING MESSAGE

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/05/14 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100160066-9

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DATE-TIME GROUP

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ROUTING

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TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR FAZIO.4

25X1

ITEM NO: 94-4

DATE: 20 SEPTEMBER 1974

SUBJECT: REPORTS OF UNREST IN IRAQ EXAGGERATED

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AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE REPORTS OF TODAY CITING DISMISSALS AND EXECUTIONS IN IRAQI ARMED FORCES ARE ESSENTIALLY TRUE, BUT THEY PROBABLY REFER TO INCIDENTS THAT OCCURRED AT LEAST SEVERAL WEEKS AGO. WE HAVE NO OTHER REPORTS THAT SUGGEST A MOVE AGAINST THE BAATHIST GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT BAKR IS UNDER WAY.

RUMORS OF ARRESTS AND EXECUTIONS TIED TO AN ABORTIVE COUP ATTEMPT CIRCULATED IN BAGHDAD'S DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY IN LATE 4 AUGUST. ONE MAJOR FIGURE CITED AT THAT TIME EN227MBAS HAVING BEEN INVOLVED WAS THE AIR FORCE COMMANDER. TODAY'S AFP REPORTS 2ACAIMH REFER TO THE ARREST OF THAT AIR FORCE OFFICER; FOR 1ALLEGEDLY REFUSING TO CARRY OUT PLANS FOR A NEW OFFENSIVE--REPORTEDLY

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CLASSIFICATION

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SET FOR OCTOBER 8--AGAINST KURDISH POSITIONS IN THE NORTHEAST.

WE BELIEVE THAT THE IRAQIS HAVE ALREADY BEGUN A NEW OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE KURDS. IRAQI ARMOR AND GROUND FORCES ON SEPTEMBER 27 REPORTEDLY LAUNCHED A TWO-PRONGED ATTACK NORTH-EAST OF RUMAHUT. IRAQI CASUALTIES REPORTEDLY HAVE BEEN HIGH.

BAATH PARTY STRONGMAN TIKRITI HAS COMMITTED HIS PRESTIGE TO DEFEATING THE KURDS BEFORE WINTER, SETS IN ABOUT SIX WEEKS FROM NOW. IF THE EASER DRIVE FAILS AND THERE ARE HIGH IRAQI CASUALTIES, FURTHER OPPOSITION WITHIN THE IRAQI MILITARY, TO THE KURDISH WAR WILL CERTAINLY BE STIMULATED. THIS COULD PRODUCE AN OPEN POWER STRUGGLE BETWEEN TIKRITI AND OPPONENTS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE MILITARY. [REDACTED]

(SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: [REDACTED])

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DATE: 30 SEPT 74
 ORIG: [REDACTED]
 UNIT: CIA OPS LIA

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